

East Ardsley and Hunslet Nelson renew old rivalry



Brolly good show but we can't play on it — Better luck this Saturday when we meet in the Morley derby, say Hunslet Nelson captain Peter Arundel, left, (C26708) and East Ardsley's Graham Littlewood, right, (C120604) Both sides are looking to get back into action.

By Paul McGinley
AT T E N T I O N switches to the Central Yorkshire League this weekend for the Division Two derby between Hunslet Nelson and East Ardsley (2pm).

Neither side has had a particularly bright start to the season with home men Nelson in the lower position in the table — ninth.

East Ardsley have fared little better with seventh place after eight games and both will be out to improve their League positions on Saturday.

Nelson's Peter Arundel said: "We get on well with the Ardsley lads and it is not an unfriendly rivalry. We're looking forward to it."

"They've got some dangerous players."

One thing Arundel is concerned about is the lack of recent play through the weather. He said: "We never got a start last weekend and with missing the weekend before it is going to be like starting again."

"Any form we might have had we've lost and it's a bit of a lottery."

The poor weather means Nelson have had games washed out they would have expected to win to add to Arundel's frustrations: "When you look at the fixtures you can pencil in matches you expect to win, such as Wakefield Thornes last weekend."

"This is normally when the table starts to sort itself out and we need to start winning to move up the table."

The club have lost middle-order batsman and seamer David Swaby who has opted to move on.

"It doesn't make it any easier," added Arundel, "and everyone will have to put in

Cricket preview

five or ten per cent extra."

He continued: "We seemed to have found the formula with our overseas player opening with his slow bowling from one end and a seamer at the other."

"He is so tight and picks up wickets and this makes a nice combination."

"We are short in the batting as none of us have found form and we have just been cobbling scores of 150 or 160 and we could do with a good batsman. With the wet weather it's made practice a problem as well."

"This means the bowlers have got to perform. But it's not just us, every club in the League table isn't able to show their form and it won't sort itself out until mid-July — you usually know where you stand when everyone has played each other once."

East Ardsley's ham Littlewood said: "We're looking forward to Saturday. Teams get on."

There's an extra

needle with our vice-captain's brother playing for Nelson."

"They're not too far behind us in the table and the teams are evenly-matched, so it should be a good game."

The recent poor weather has also frustrated Ardsley's hopes after they had found their form. Littlewood said: "Personally I haven't practiced for three or four weeks and you can't get a run together. We won two over the Bank Holiday weekend and needed to keep playing to keep our form."

"Along with last season it's all been a damp squib weather-wise."

With poor weather anticipated this weekend, Littlewood added: "Perhaps we might beat them at cards!"

Elsewhere in Division Two third-placed Gildersome visit fourth-place King

Drig chairman Malcolm Tetley said: "Coming to this weekend we will have gone three weeks without cricket so the form book goes out of the window. It's like playing the first match of the season and we mustn't be complacent."

"Manningham Mills have blended in some new players this year and they look like they are a better side than Morley beat earlier in the season. They have four batsmen who have hit half-centuries and a well-balanced attack and were on a two-match winning run — like ourselves — when the bad weather set in."

He added: "We must be on top of our game and give it our best shot."

Drighlington have three matches to go to the half-way mark in the season. They start with the match at Mills, host Salts and then travel to leaders Cleckheaton on July 4.

Cleckheaton visit

secure a four-point win over Cleckheaton then we will go joint top. Then we have an even competition."

Drig also have a couple of interesting Sunday games coming up — hosting New Farnley in the second round of the Worthington Trophy on July 5 and then hosting a touring Indian side on July 12.

Morley (eighth) have a tough task at fifth-placed Hartshead Moor. Secretary Steve Ream said: "We are hoping to get back into the winning habit and it will be a hard tussle for us."

"We played them once last season in a cup game but that was ultimately rained off."

Like every other club Morley are keen to take the field after the enforced break. Ream added: "Everyone looks glum — people sit at the club and stare at the sky and at the wickets."

"Our skipper Adam Larkin has been waiting for two weeks to